

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Bulletin No. 264

Supplement to the *Tasmanian Naturalist*

October 1991

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club is devoted to the study of all forms of Natural History, and is comprised of both experts and beginners. We cover a wide variety of topics, and we support conservation. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, except January, in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania at 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the main entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street.

The Club's address is GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the club contact is Helen Davidson.

Programme

- Thurs. Nov. 7th 7.45p.m.: Louise Gilfedder will be speaking to us on rare and threatened plant and plant communities from remnant grasslands and grassy woodlands.
- Sat. Nov. 9th 9 a.m.: Louise will lead us on this outing to the Midlands visiting several sites with high flora conservation value. We won't be doing much walking but bring warm clothes and lunch.
- Thurs. Dec. 5th 7.45p.m.: A speaker on the wildlife of Antarctica. Our plan for Graham Robinson to speak on the effects of oriental fishing practices on the world albatross population will depend on whether Graham is able to leave the Chatham Islands on time. Reserve speakers are available. Bring a plate for Christmas supper, but no lamingtons this year please (unless you bring a broom as well)!
- Sat. Dec. 7th 8 a.m.: A visit to the property of Mr Paul Berry at Collinsvale. Paul wishes to transfer title of his land to community groups. We will conduct mammal trapping and exploration of the block's micro-habitats. Leader Don Hird (34 4293).
- Thurs. Feb. 6th 7.45p.m.: Dr Bob Ellis will speak on aspects of our changing forests.
- Feb. 7-9th Weekend excursion with accommodation available at Liawenee. Margaret Mollison (28 2720) will take bookings for the accommodation and co-ordinate transport. On Saturday Bob Ellis will lead us to Waddamana and describe its history particularly with reference to forestry. On Saturday evening there will be an address by Professor Bill Jackson, and on Sunday Bill will lead a botanical ramble on the Central Plateau, noting effects of grazing on the vegetation.
-

New Members A special welcome to our new members Bob Patterson and Julie Virtue.

1992 Membership fees Club membership fees are due on 1 January 1992. The current rates are adults \$15, concession \$12 and families \$18. Included in a membership fee is the quarterly Bulletin and *Tasmanian Naturalist* journal. Subscriptions to the *Tasmanian Naturalist* are also available separately. Within Australia individuals \$12 and institutions \$16. Overseas individuals \$14 and institutions \$18. These rates are guaranteed until 31 December 1991, so pay for your membership in advance this year!

Mammal survey group Thanks to the Hobart City Council for loan of a key to access the Pipeline Track for a recent survey. Further surveys are planned during the summer months, phone Don Hird for details (34 4293).

Future Outings? There have been several ideas for exotic outings in recent months. These include Betsy Island (just south of South Arm) and Swan Island (just off the north-east corner of Tasmania). To visit Betsy Island we need to use a boat from Hobart. Does any member own a suitable boat who would be willing to use it for a day or weekend? To visit Swan Island we probably would need to hire a bus to travel to the far north-east, and then a short plane hop is available for about \$35. There is comfortable accommodation available on Swan Island. On both islands the Club could undertake mammal and plant surveys. Is anyone willing to co-ordinate the organisation of these outings, or does anyone have any inside information? Phone Patti Virtue (34 9478) with your ideas.

Federation of Field Naturalists Clubs of Tasmania Phil and Sue Collier were the Club's delegates for the meeting at Golden Valley on 21 and 22 September. The weekend was cold with a snow shower on Saturday morning and thick snow on the Lakes Highway lasting until Sunday. There was an outing to a property high on the slopes of Quamby Bluff on the Saturday with wonderful snowy views of the Western Tiers. On Sunday morning the business meeting was significant for our Club because we agreed to take on the jobs of President and Secretary of the Federation for two years starting in March 1992. We have not nominated people to fill these positions yet. Any interested members may call Phil Collier (29 6597) if they would like to take on one of these jobs. The jobs are not arduous as there are only two meetings of the Federation each year. The meetings are hosted by different Clubs around the State who usually organise outings to their local area which they know well, and may be poorly known by the visitors. For example the meeting in October 1992 may be on King Island hosted by the King Island Club. Organising the outings is not part of the job of being President who is responsible only for a short business meeting during the weekend.

Audio tape of Tasmanian birds songs Congratulations to our life member Kelsey Aves who has produced a tape of calls of 64 Tasmanian Birds. These calls have been collected over many years, and have been electronically processed to be suitable for publication. The tape sells for \$12 or \$10 through the Club.

Helen Davidson Members will be sad to hear that our hard-working secretary until this year has been in hospital for several weeks. During this time Helen's mother died. We extend warm sympathy to Helen and wish her a full and speedy recovery. Helen is looking forward to being out in the bush with us again as soon as possible.

Helen is our current Bulletin editor. Thanks go to the members of the committee who stepped in at short notice to produce the last Bulletin.

President's report Sue and I have just returned from a visit to WA, and again we were enchanted by the wildflowers. During the visit we met with a couple from the Victorian Field Naturalists Club who are responsible for organising outings. The Victorian Club uses a bus for its outings with two obvious advantages: the group can enjoy company on the journey and the bus is environmentally more friendly than a convoy of cars. The organisers try to estimate the likely attendance before-hand and set a bus fare on that basis. I think that we should consider this idea for our Club. The disadvantage, of course, is that the Club could make a loss on poorly attended outings. Any comments? Phone Phil Collier (29 6597).

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB inc

MAMMAL SURVEY GROUP

In 1991 the Tasmanian Field Nats formally commenced active regular mammal survey, with monthly excursions supplementing regular club activities. We have permits to do capture - release surveys and undertake spotlight and other techniques. This year we aim to continue our investigation of the Mt Wellington Range and to expand our techniques into provision of nest boxes. We usually meet a fortnight after the scheduled club monthly excursion.

Contacts are Don Hird - ph 344 293 (H), 215 912 (W), or
Andrew Weinert - ph 235 697 (H).

We welcome new people on a regular or occasional basis.

Program : February - June 1992.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| February | 7th - 9th
Liawenee - in conjunction with the club monthly excursion, we will be active in this montane plateau environment. See the reference to times and accommodation details in the Jan. Bulletin attached. |
| March | 28th -29th (Note later date than usual).
Snug Falls area. This is an area of State Forest of local conservation value, especially in conjunction with the neighbouring Snug Tiers area. Later in the year we will visit the Tier itself. Meet at Snug Tavern carpark at 3 pm. |
| April | 18th - 19th.
Pipeline Track area . We are fortunate to have been granted limited access to this area of the Wellington Range by HCC. Meet at Neika Schoolhouse at 3 pm Sat. |
| May | 23rd - 24th
Cygnet area guided by Lyn Forster, Owen and Co, where they have been successful in locating species such as bettongs and quolls. Details to be confirmed later. |
| June | 20th - 21st
Mt Nelson area. Despite its proximity to Hobart and sometimes suburban nature, this area still holds some interesting habitats and native mammals. An excursion close to Hobart for the Winter equinox. |

